HIS MAIESTIES ROYALL DECLARATION AND PROTESTATION, TO all his loving Subjects in England.

BEING

A full satisfaction to all the whole world, against all aspersions which have lately been cast upon His Majesty, that he is Popishly affected, to the great dishonour of his Majesty, and the withdrawing His loving Subjects from him.

TOGETHER,

With His Gracious Resolution for the maintenance of the true Protestant Religion, the Laws and Liberties of the Subject, with the just Priviledges of Parliament.

Published by His Majesties speciall Command.

OXFORD,
Printed by *Leonard Lichfield*, Printer to the famous University.

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His Majesties Royall Declaration, and Protestation to all his Loving Subjects in England.

IT is a wonder that We so just, so pious, and merciffull in our words and intentions should not be believed in all our Declarations and Protestations: certainly it is impiety to be so full of infidelity towards the words of a King, some whereof we have here drawne out of our own severall writings, that all the world may see Our faire expressions, of our self and the just end of all Our actions, and how unjustly both have been interpreted. First concerning Our being affected to Popery, We protest in the word of a King, and call the searches of all hearts to record, that We intend not the alteration of the true professed and established Protestant Religion, the Lawes of the Kingdome, the knowne libertie of the Subject, the right and just Priviledges of Parliament. Of the Lawes his Majesty saith thus: A new power hath been assumed to interpret and declare Lawes without Us, by extemporary votes, tending to a pure arbitrary power: Ordinances, and Orders were pressed upon the people as Lawes, and their obedience required to them. His Majesty saith further, We doe beleeve, and accordingly professe to all the world, that the malignity of this designe (as dangerous to the Lawes of this Kingdome, the power of the same, and the Liberties of all Our good Subjects, as to Our self, and Our just Prerogative) hath proceeded from the subtill informations and evill Counsells of ambitious turbulent Spirits, disaffected to Gods true Religion, and the unity of the Professours thereof, Our Honour and safety, and the publick peace and prosperity of our people. His Majesty addeth further: But how faultly soever others are, we shall (with Gods assistance) endeavour to discharge Our duty in the uprightnesse of heart. The King goes on further in declaring his own candor and uprightnesse, together with affronts offered unto Him, saying thus they endeavour to turn this government into a new *Eutopia* of Religion, and therefore We are resolved to change none of Our trusty Officers, till they appear to have behaved themselves otherwise then they ought to have done, and bee evicted by

by legall proceedings to have done so. We were ever willing that Our Parliament should debate, resolve, and transact such matters as are now proper for them, and we heartily wish that the course of Law be no wayes diverted, much lesse disturbed. Moreover we call God to witnesse that as for our Subjects sakes all rights are vested in Us, so for their sakes as well as for Our own, we are resolved not to quit them, nor to subvert (though in a Parliamentary way) the ancient, just constitution of the Government of this Kingdome, nor to make Our self of a King of *England*, a Duke of *Venice*, and this of a Kingdome, a Republick. Besides the Kings Majesty saith further, *Nolumus leges Angliæ mutari*, We promise that We will be as carefull of preserving the Lawes in what doth concern Our subjects, as in what most concerns our self, for We professe to believe that the preservation of every Law concerns Us. We have by many of Our messages to you by Our voluntary promise to you, so solemnly made never to pardon any popish Priest by Our strict Proclamation which lately published in this point, sufficiently expressed Our zeal herein. We wil also with constancy maintain (while We live) The Protestant Religion in its purity and glory, not onely against all invasions of Popery, but also from the irreverence of Schismaticks, and Separatists, wherewith this Kingdome of late, and Our City of *London* abounds, to the great dishonour and hazzard, both of Church and State. To conclude, We conjure you, and all men to rest satisfied with the truth of Our professions and the reality of Our intentions. And then We shall receive much more in the hope of a full & constant happines of our people in the true Religion, and under the protection of the same by a blessed union between Us and Our Parliament, & so much desired by Us, then in any increase of Our own Revenue, which beyond former grants of Our Subjects when most wealthy, could by our Parliament be settled upon Us. Thus We in all our Protestations and Messages desire the good of the Kingdome, before Our own private interest.

His Majesty saith further, We professe before and declare to all the world, that we alwayes have and did abhorre all such designes, but that all Our endeavous (according to Our many Professions) did and shall ever tend to the firm and constant settlement of the true Protestant Religion, the just Priviledges of Parliament, the Liberty of the Subject, the Lawes, Peace and prosperity of this Kingdome.

In

In a Letter from His Majesty to both Houses of Parliament, the conclusion you may reade thus:

If all these present distractions (which so apparently threaten the ruine of this Kingdome) do not (by the blessing of almighty God) end in a happy and blessed accommodation, his Majesty will then be ready to call heaven and earth, God and man to witnesse, that it hath not failed on his part.

I am confident that you expect not I should give a speedy answer to this strange and unexpected Declaration, that in the distraction of this Kingdome, you should think this way of addresse more convenient, then that proposed by my message the 20 of January last to both houses: as concerning the grounds of your feates and jealousies, I will take time to answer particularly, and doubt not but I shall do it to the satisfaction of the whole world. God in his good time will discover the secrets and bottomes of all plots and treasons; and then I shall stand right in the eyes of my people. God so deale with me and mine, as all my thoughts and intentions are upright, for the maintenance of the true Protestant profession, and for the observation, and preservation of the Lawes of this Land, and I hope God will blesse and assist those Lawes for my preservation.

When we duly weigh the dishonour which will perpetually lie upon this Kingdome, if full and speedy relief be not dispatched, We could not, nor cannot think of a better way to discharge Our duty to Almighty God, for the defence of the true Protestant Profession, or to manifest Our affection to Our three Kingdomes, then by ingaging Our Person in this Expedition, as many of Our royall Progenitours have done even in Forraigne parts, upon causes of lesse importance and piety, with great honour to themselves, and advantage to this Kingdome.

For the danger of Our Person, We conceive it necessary and Worthy of a King, to adventure his life to preserve his Kingdome, neither can it be imagined, that We will sit still, and suffer Our Kingdome to be lost,

and Our good Proteſtant Subiects to be maſſacred, without expoſing Our Perſon to the utmoſt hazzard for their reliefe and preſervation.

God, in his good time, We hope, will ſo informe the hearts of all Our good Subjects, that We ſhall recover from the miſchiefe and danger of this diſtemper, on whoſe good pleaſure We will wait with patience and humility.

For the bringing up of the Army to London, as we have heretofore (by no other direction then the teſtimony of a good conſcience) called God to witneſſe we never had or knew of any ſuch reſolution; ſo upon the view of the Depoſitions now publiſhed with that Declaration, it is not evident to Us, there was even ſuch a deſigne, unleſſe very looſe diſcourſe or argument be inſtance enough of ſuch a deſigne.

And if no better effects then loſſe of time, and hindrance of the publike affaires have beene found by Our Anſwers and Replies, let all good men judge, by whoſe default, and whoſe want of duty ſuch effects have beene.

And We call Almighty God to witneſſe, all Our complaints and jealouſies, which have never been cauſeleſſe, nor of Our Houſes of Parliament, but of ſome few ſchiſmaticall, factious, and ambitious ſpirits: Our deniall of the *Militia*, Our abſenting Our Selfe from London, have beene the effects of an upright and faithfull affection to Our Engliſh Subjects, that We may be able, through all the inconveniences We are compelled to wraſtle with, at laſt to reſtore their Religion, Lawes, and Liberties unto them.

Wee deſire Our actions may no longer proſper, or have a bleſſing from God upon them and Us, then they ſhall be directed to the glory of God in the maintenance of the true Proteſtant profeſſion, to the preſervation of the property and liberty of the ſubjects in the obſervation of the Lawes, and the maintenance of the Rights and Freedome of Parliament, in the allowance and protection of all their juſt priviledges.

We would have you to be aſſured, that We never intended the leaſt neglect unto you in any former Summons of the county, Our love, as well as Our protection, extending to all Our Subjects; but as you are a great body, time and conveniency muſt be obſerved in your aſſembling.

That you may know the generall reaſons of Our being here, you muſt

must understand, that when We found it neither safe nor honourable to expose Our Person to the tumultuous and licentious proceedings of many (which to this day are unpunished) who did disorderly approach neere Our Court at White-Hall, Wee trusted this part of Our dominions chiefly to reside in, where, as most of the Gentry already have so Wee assure Our Selfe, the rest of you will give Us cleere testimony of your service and obedience, which We will never use otherwise then for the defence of Our orthodox Religion, professed and seeled in Queene *Elizabeths* time, and confirmed by the authority of the Statutes of this Realme, the defence of the Lawes and fundamentall Constitutions of the Kingdome (as the justest measure and rule for Our Prerogative, your Liberties and Rights) and lastly, for the preservation of the peace of this Kingdome.

As for Our owne zeale to the Protestant profession, we refer all the world to Our daily exercise of, and Our Declarations concerning it, and execution of the Laws against the Papists; so likewise We cannot but declare Our Selfe most heartily sorry to finde such Separatists and Schismaticks, who presume against Law, to foment new doctrines and disciplines, to the disturbance of Church and State. For the Law, it being the common inheritance of Our people, We shall never inforce any Prerogative of Ours beyond it, but submit Our Selfe to it, and give you and all Our Subjects the fullest latitude of it, both for the liberty of your persons, and the propriety of your estates, and for an inviolable confidence and assurance hereof, as We take God (the searcher of all hearts) to witnesse Our reall intention herein, so We shall no longer desire you to stand for the defence of Our Person, Honour, and just Prerogatives, then We shall maintaine the Lawes of the Land, the liberty of your persons, and propriety of your goods.

For the resort of Papists to the Court, His Majesties great care for the prevention thereof, is notoriously knowne, that when he was informed two or three of his Guard were of that Religion, he gave speciall direction, with expressions of his displeasure, that they should bee immediately discharged, and provided, that no person should attend on him under that relation, but such as tooke the oath of Allegiance and Supremacie.

There having been many rumours spread, and informations given, which may have induced many to believe, that We intend to make war against Our Parliament.

We professe before God, and declare to all the world, that we alwaies

have

The God of heaven direct you, and in mercy divert those judgements which hang over this Nation, and so deale with Us and Our posterity, as We desire the preservation and advancement of the true Protestant Religion, the Law, and the Liberty of the Subject, the just Rights of Parliament, and the peace of the Kingdome.

FINIS.